
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6623

AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT ASSESSMENTS.

SUMMARY:

This bill changes current law to permit administration of a mastery examination system to grade 11 public school students beginning in the 2013-14 school year. Mastery exams are currently administered to students in grades three through eight and 10. Additionally, the bill:

1. requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to conduct a study about the use of standardized testing in public schools;
2. eliminates a prohibition on endowed and incorporated high schools and academies from basing promotion or graduation on a student achieving a satisfactory score; and
3. extends, from October 1, 2007 to April 1, 2013, the deadline for the education commissioner to develop and implement an assessment tool for measuring a child's kindergarten readiness (see COMMENT).

The bill also makes several technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013, except for the provision regarding the study of standardized testing, which takes effect upon passage.

STUDY OF STANDARDIZED TESTS

The bill requires SDE to conduct a study of the use of standardized tests in public schools. Study topics must include (1) the fiscal, administrative, and educational impacts of standardized tests and (2) a review of standardized tests currently implemented and proposed in the state. SDE must submit the study to the Education Committee by July 1, 2014.

COMMENT

Conflicting Internal and Bill Effective Dates

The bill extends the deadline for the education commissioner to create a kindergarten readiness assessment tool from October 1, 2007 to April 1, 2013. However, this section of the bill does not take effect until July 1, 2013, making the extension ineffectual.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 26 Nay 0 (03/28/2013)